



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 532711
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

February 22, 2013

Office of the Commander
and District Engineer

Mr. Samuel Unger
Executive Officer
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
320 W 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

Dear Mr. Unger:

Reference is made to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's request to amend the Technical Report for Investigative Order R4-2013-0001 dated February 15, 2013. The request concerns evidence of heavy equipment use within the Los Angeles River noted in your January 15, 2013 inspection. In particular, you requested an accounting of activities in the river, and an explanation resolving the discrepancy between the Technical Report and your field observations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in order to ensure safe and proper operation of Sepulveda Dam, annually removes accumulated sediment and debris from the 1,825-foot long segment of the L.A. River between Burbank Boulevard and the outlet works. The entire length of this segment is concrete lined. The work typically occurs between September and December. The 2013 cleanout occurred on December 10 through December 11, 2013. Bulldozers accessed the river from the east bank near the Encino Creek confluence, and gathered sediment into piles. A rubber-wheeled loader scooped sediment and placed it into a dump truck. Approximately 200 cubic yards of sediment was removed and transported to a placement site in the uplands within the vicinity of the spillway.

Sediment and debris removal from an engineered, fully concrete lined, and currently serviceable structure in order to allow that structure to function as designed is a maintenance activity exempt from regulation under the Clean Water Act per Section 404(f)(1)(B). The sediment and debris removal did not modify the character, scope or size of the flood control channel through this portion of the L.A. River, and is critical for the safe function and operation of the Sepulveda Dam which provides protection for approximately 1.5 million people within a 100 square-mile area downstream of the dam.

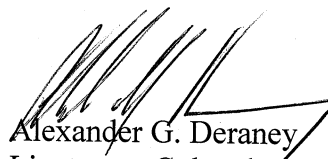
There is no discrepancy between the Technical Report and observations noted by your staff. The sediment removal work in the L.A. River was not part of the vegetation management project, but was done concurrently with the project since equipment required to remove sediment and debris were already on site. The Technical Report focused solely on vegetation management activities as required by the Investigative Order: "As part of the Regional Board's effort to

protect water quality and investigate the quality of waters within its jurisdiction, the USACOE is required to submit technical and/or monitoring reports addressing vegetation removal and discharge of sediment to "Pothole Pond" as required by the Regional Board pursuant to California Water Code section 13267." Therefore, our response to Items 14 and 15 of the Technical Report remains accurate.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jodi Clifford at (213) 452-3840 or Mr. Kenneth Wong at (213) 452-3867.

"Building Strong and Taking Care of People"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander G. Deraney', written over a horizontal line.

Alexander G. Deraney
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
Acting Commander and Acting District Engineer